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Cattlemen celebrate county

By **BRAD DICKERSON**

Glasgow Daily Times

A picture-perfect sky and pleasant temperatures enticed area residents to come and celebrate Barren County being No. 1 at Saturday's Cattlemen's Festival.

On the Public Square, the event recognized the county being the No. 1 cattle producer in the state of Kentucky, as well as recently being recognized by "The Progressive Farmer" magazine as the No. 1 rural community in America.

"We're celebrating No. 1," said Tommy High, president of the Barren County Cattlemen's Association.

Dignitaries including Barren County Judge-Executive Davie Greer, State Rep. Johnny Bell and former UK Wildcat and present Commissioner of Agriculture Richie Farmer made opening remarks to kick off the day.

"Farming in this community has always been one of the strongest economic driving forces in this community," Bell said.

Farmer appreciated the opportunity to be in Barren County and take part in the event honoring the area cattlemen, which has a membership of 600 strong.

Additionally, he commended the local chapters of the FFA, 4-H and other youth-based programs.

"Agriculture is something that's very important to a lot of us," Farmer said. "A lot of people will come up to me and talk about, 'What do you think your No. 1 commodity is? Is it horses? Is it cattle? Is it corn? Is it soybeans?'"

"I can tell you that my answer is always our young people."

Youth were a part of the day, as they could be spotted walking with parents and getting balloon-shaped animals from the clowns down on the square.

Then there were youngsters like Trista Russell, of Russell Farms, who came with two of her "pets," a heifer named Trixie and a bull named KJ.

The cattle were on display for attendees to come and admire.

Russell said she has been working with cattle on her farm for four years, handling such chores as feeding and brushing them.

"They're just big pets," she said.

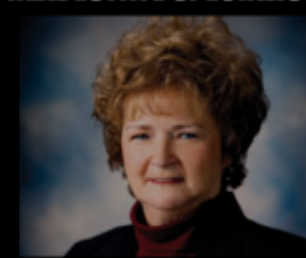
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Photos



Trista Russell, 12, gives a quick "brush-up" to heifer Trixie at Saturday's Cattlemen's Festival. **By: Brad Dickerson/Glasgow Daily Times** (Click for larger image)

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Vendors such as Burkmann Feeds, Mike's Cycle World and Ben and Elmer Tractor Company could found all around the square as well.

The hot spot, however, appeared to be the line for the cattlemen's ribeye steak sandwiches.

Hungry festival attendees patiently waited for their chance to get a few of the popular food items, with grillmen walking up and down the line with free samples of the juicy and tender pieces of beef.

"They're the best cooks in the world," Greer said.



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